

U.S. Serial No. 10/772,345
Applicant: Isao OCHIAI

REMARKS

The present response is submitted in reply to the Office Action of May 15, 2007. In this response, allowable subject matter has been placed into independent form so as to seek an expedited allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter:

In paragraphs 4-5 of the Office Action, the Patent Office indicated – among other things -- that claim 2 included allowable subject matter. In this response, prior claim 1 has now been canceled and claim 2 has been placed in independent form. In this response, all of the remaining claims are amended to now depend directly or indirectly from claim 2. Accordingly, the Application is clearly in condition for allowance at this time.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103:

In paragraph 3, claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 based on Chan in view of Yamada, et al. These rejections are most respectfully traversed. However, in view of the above-noted amendments, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are now moot and should be withdrawn.

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Cosmetic Claim Amendments:

In addition to placing claim 2 in independent form, the claims have been amended to include a few cosmetic amendments. These cosmetic amendments do not change the scope of the claims and, thus, e.g., do not in any way limit the broadest reach of the claims under the doctrine of equivalents. In addition, in the prior response, claim number 10 was omitted; accordingly, for clarity the non-existent claim 10 is now shown as deleted.

Closing Remarks:

As set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The event that any fees are due in connection with this filing, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 50-4080.

Respectfully submitted,

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